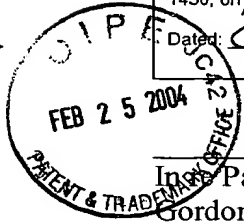


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER147058519US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 2.25.04 Signature: Elena Maglitta
(Elena M. Maglitta)

#15/C
2 mos
Docket No.: HO-P02540US1
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Patent Application of:
Gordon S. Scholler

Application No.: 09/896,429

Art Unit: 3739

Filed: June 29, 2001

Examiner: A. Farah

For: **IMPROVED APPLANATION LENS AND
METHOD FOR OPHTHALMIC SURGICAL
APPLICATIONS**

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED 10-20-03

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 20, 2003 (Paper No. 13), finally rejecting claims 1-18, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

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